

attendance, but from the circumstances that many of those who are under this appointment are now absent, as well as from other considerations that have had an influence on our minds at the present time.

We are aware that from the wide extent over which our Society is spread and from a variety of other causes, it is not easy for all who are under such appointments to give their attendance; yet we have very forcibly felt in our present situation, the caution how far we may form conclusions on the subjects before us, or make propositions to the Meetings by which we have been appointed. But while on the one hand the necessity of this guard has been seen, we have believed that the duties of our appointment demand that we should suggest with freedom, the views which have been presented to our minds, during our deliberations on the present occasion.

In humbly waiting on the great head of the Church and, we trust, under a measure of his holy and cementing influence we have been renewedly made sensible that the design of Infinite

Wisdom in gathering and preserving the Society as a distinct people, has been, they should be, however widely scattered, one body, holding the same precious truths, and bound together by the bonds of Gospel fellowship, Christian communion and brotherly love; that we should be members one of another, having so near and intimate a relation to each other, that if one member (or portion of the body) suffer all the members suffer with it, and if one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. This intimate relation of the different parts of the body to each other and the strength they instrumentally derive from each other participating together of the one vital source of strength and consolation; lies at the foundation of our religious institutions. It is on this general ground that Meetings both for Worship and Discipline have been established; and for this mutual assistance the connection and gradation of Meetings for business have led from Preparative to Monthly, from Monthly to Quarterly, and from Quarterly to Yearly Meetings. The connection and subordination established by this order, it is well known has